Remarks

A.   Claims In The Case

Claims 68, 69, 71-77, 79-87, 90-92, and 95 have been amended. Claims 88, 89, 93, 94, 115, and 116 have been canceled. Claims 68, 69, 71-77, 79-87, 90-92, 95, 96, 98-104, 106-114, and 117-119 are pending.

B.   The Claims Are Not Obvious Over LeBlanc in View of Copeland, Pree and McCormack Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 68, 69, 71-77, 79-96, 98-104, and 106-119 as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,694,506 to LeBlanc et al. ("Leblanc") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,946,694 to Copeland et al. ("Copeland"), Pree (Wolfgang Pree, Meta Patterns – A means for capturing the essential of reusable object-oriented design, Proceedings, ECOOP'94, 1994 – info.unikarlsruhe.de, and U.S. Patent No. 6,049,773 to McCormack et al. ("McCormack"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

To reject a claim as obvious, the Examiner has the burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. *In re Warner*, 154 U.S.P.Q. 173, 177-78 (C.C.P.A. 1967). To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974); MPEP § 2143.03.

Claim 68 has been amended to include features of cancelled dependent claims 88 and 89. Claim 95 has been amended to include features of cancelled dependent claims 115 and 116. Claims 68 and 95 describe a combination of features including:

obtaining   a   reinsurance   business   process   framework,   wherein   the   reinsurance

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business process framework comprises common functionality for one or more reinsurance business processes and wherein the reinsurance business process framework comprises: one or more classes of objects designed for a reinsurance administration system; a plurality of support processes, a plurality of hook methods, and a designated order for executing steps in one or more application programs, wherein the steps comprise pre-execution, data entry, data validation, pre-commission, commission, and post-commission

Regarding claim 68, the Examiner states:

As per claims 79-91, LeBlanc disloces that JAVA includes a wealth of frameworks intended to greatly enhance application software development on the internet (col. 6 lines 12-29). Further, LeBalanc discloses that JAVA beans are the object unit and are the tool which provide application developers with the framework for reusable, embeddable modular softare components (col. 6 lines 30-43). Copeland discloses that objects that perform system-related functions necessary for every method request, wherein the system-related activities include things like peforming security checks (claim 86), locking records, etc that need to be performed before the business object performs its method (col. 7 lines 28-49). The Examiner respectfully submits that the processes and frameworks recited in claims 79-91 are well known in the art of object oriented programming as disclosed by LeBlanc and Copeland.

Regarding claims 79-91, the Examiner further states:

The Examiner submits that the differences between the prior art and the method recited in claims 79-91 are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited in claims 79-91. The method of claims 79-91 would be performed the same regard less of whether the method had a specific type of framework support process, support process, or reinsurance framework.

Amended claims 68 and 95 recite: "combining one or more reinsurance business process subclasses to build one or more application programs for the reinsurance administration system, wherein the order for executing steps in the one or more application programs is the order for the reinsurance business process framework" and "executing at least one of the one or more application programs for the reinsurance administration system." Applicant submits that the

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order for executing steps in one or more application programs, the steps including pre-execution, data entry, data validation, pre-commission, commission, and post-commission, as recited in claims 68 and 95, determines the order of steps when the one or more application programs are executed. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant submits that the order for executing steps in one or more application programs, including the steps of pre-execution, data entry, data validation, pre-commission, commission, and post-commission, are not non-functional descriptive material.

Amended claims 68 and 95 further recite:

overriding at least one of the hook methods of the reinsurance business process framework to access at least one stage in an execution of one of the reinsurance business processes and to identify a support process to be executed, wherein overriding the at least one hook method comprises overriding a method to be executed during data entry

The Examiner states:

It is respectfully submitted that while LeBlanc, Copeland, and Pree do not disclose overriding every hook method as recited in claims 72-77, Copeland does disclose that they can be used before an object performs its method and Pree discloses that hook methods can be overridden. Further, the Examiner respectfully submits that it is well known in the art that a hook method can be used at any location in a routine or program and that they can be overridden.

Pree states:

...M1() constitutes the template method based on the hook methods M2() and M3(). For method M2() only the method interface (name and parameters) can be defined, not an implementation....Subclass B1 adapts the template method M1() by overriding M2(). Thus the hot spot M2() is filled. The template method M1() of class B is adapted without changing the source code as illustrated in Figure 3. (Pree, Section 4.1)

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As the Examiner acknowledges the cited art does not disclose every hook method as recited in Applicant's claims 72-77. Appellant submits that neither Pree nor the other cited art teaches or suggests overriding a method to be executed during data entry.
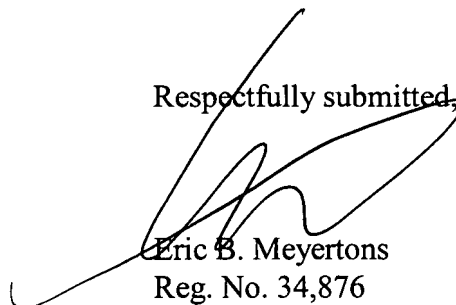
For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the combination of LeBlanc, Copeland, Pree, and McCormack fail to teach or suggest the combination of features of amended claims 68 and 95, or any claim depending thereon. Applicant asserts that the claims are patentable over the cited art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections on these grounds.

C.   **Additional Remarks**

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

A fee authorization is attached hereto for a one-month extension of time. If any extension of time is required, Applicant hereby requests the appropriate extension of time. If any additional fees are required or if any fees have been overpaid, please appropriately charge or credit those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5053-28301/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,

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